REMARKS

Initially, the applicants' representatives wish to thank Examiner Escalante for the courtesy extended in the telephone interviews of May 11, 2006 and May 19, 2006. A brief summary of each of the interviews is provided below.

During the Interview of May 11, 2006, the applicants' representatives, Frank McKiel and Glenn Snyder discussed the rejection based on Wheeler, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,583,920; hereinafter Wheeler). More particularly, the applicants' representatives pointed out how the pending claims were patentable over Wheeler and reiterated many of the arguments made in the After Final Request for Reconsideration filed February 21, 2006. Examiner Escalante indicated that the arguments with respect to the pending claims appeared to overcome Wheeler. Examiner Escalante also proposed minor modifications to some of the pending independent claims, such as claim 22, to more clearly define the separation of the switch intelligence and switch fabric. The applicants' representatives thanked Examiner Escalante for his suggestions and indicated that they would determine whether to incorporate these suggestions in any subsequent response. Examiner Escalante also indicated that he would look more closely at the pending rejection and do an updated search with respect to the pending claims. A proposed Examiner's Amendment was subsequently sent to Examiner Escalante on May 18, 2006 incorporating suggestions made by Examiner Escalante during the interview of May 11, 2006.

During the interview of May 19, 2006 with Glenn Snyder, Examiner Escalante indicated that during an updated search, he located a new reference, La Porta (U.S. Patent No. 5,434,852) that he believed was relevant to some of the pending claims. Examiner

Escalante and the applicants' representative briefly discussed the reference. Due to an upcoming 6-month due date with respect to the Final Office Action of November 21, 2005 (for which an After Final Request for Reconsideration was filed on February 21, 2006), the Examiner indicated that a new, non-final Office Action would be forthcoming based on the new reference. The applicants' representative again thanked Examiner Escalante for attempting to expedite prosecution of this application.

Now returning to the present amendment, claims 11, 22, 28, 29, 30, 40, 44, 45, 51 and 52 have been amended to improve form and new claims 55-62 have been added. Claims 1-62 are now pending in this application.

The applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the indication that claims 1-10 and 32-39 have been allowed and that claims 14-21 and 25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the features of their respective base claims and any intervening claims.

A brief description of the claim amendments and the location of support for the changes to the claims will be described in detail below with respect to Cardy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,041,109; hereinafter the '109 patent). For the Examiner's convenience, a marked-up copy of the Amendment showing the current changes (with respect to the previous Amendment filed October 21, 2004) to the claims is provided as an appendix to this Amendment.

Claims 11-13, 22-24, 26-31 and 40-54 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by La Porta et al. (U.S. Patent 5,434,852; hereinafter La Porta). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 11, as amended, recites switch intelligence configured to receive notification of an event associated with a call from a switch fabric, wherein the switch intelligence is implemented in a separate network element from a network element implementing the switch fabric. Claim 11, as amended, also recites that the switch intelligence is configured to execute a call state machine, the call state machine being responsive to the notification of the event and representing processing of the call as at least one call segment, wherein the at least one call segment corresponds to a call half. Support for these features is given, for example, at col. 6, lines 36-39 and col. 7, lines 47-54 of the '109 patent.

The Office Action states that the call server 502 and the connection server 504 of La Porta are equivalent to the claimed switch intelligence (Office Action – page 3). The Office Action further states that the switch intelligence in La Porta is configured to receive information associated with a call from a switch fabric and points to col. 7, lines 59-61 for support (Office Action – page 3).

La Porta at col. 7, lines 40-62 discloses call processing associated with a two party call. More particularly and with reference to Fig. 5 of La Porta, La Porta discloses that when a user initiates a two-party call and desires certain services with certain attributes, the user sends a request message and underlying parameters for the desired services directly to call server 502 as a service invocation request (col. 7, lines 40-48). In Fig. 5 of La Porta, the users/clients and their instances are represented by CPE 501, 513 and 514 (La Porta – col. 6, lines 44-46). La Porta also discloses that the call server 502 processes the request and forwards the associated parameters to the appropriate service-specific servers 518, 520, 522 and 524 to invoke the necessary operations in the service-

specific servers (La Porta – col. 7, lines 48-50). La Porta further discloses that after the service-specific servers report the results of their operations to the call server 502, call server 502 invokes the services of connection server 504 to request that connections with certain performance and routing characteristics be established (La Porta – col. 7, lines 47-62).

Therefore, La Porta merely discloses that a call server 502, which is alleged to form part of the claimed switch intelligence, receives a request message from a user requesting certain services. La Porta does not disclose that call server 502 (or connection server 504) is configured to receive <u>notification of an event</u> associated with a call <u>from a switch fabric</u>, as required by amended claim 11. In contrast, La Porta discloses receiving a request message directly from a user for a particular service.

La Porta does disclose that connection server 504 communicates with channel servers 506 and 511. More particularly, La Porta discloses that when connection server 504 has selected the routes for the connections, it invokes the services of the channel servers 506 and 511 to establish the virtual channel links. At the end of their operations, the channel servers 506 and 511 report the result of these operations to call server 502 indicating whether the requested connections have been established (La Porta – col. 7, line 59 to col. 8, line 9). Therefore, La Porta merely discloses that the channel servers 506/511 and connection server 504 report results (e.g., positive results) if requested connections have been established. La Porta clearly does not disclose or suggest that call server 502 or connection server 504 (alleged to be equivalent to the claimed switch intelligence) <u>receive notification of an event associated with a call from a switch fabric</u>, as required by amended claim 11.

The Office Action also states that La Porta discloses that the switch intelligence of LaPorta is configured to execute a call state machine representing processing of the call, wherein at least one call segment corresponds to a call half (Office Action – page 3). Claim 11, as amended, however, recites that the switch intelligence is configured to execute a call state machine, where the call state machine is responsive to the notification of the event. Since La Porta, as discussed above, does not disclose that the call server 502 (or connection server 504) receives notification of an event associated with a call from a switch fabric, La Porta cannot further disclose or suggest that call server 502 (or connection server 504) executes a call state machine responsive to the notification of the event, as also required by amended claim 11.

For at least these reasons, La Porta does not disclose or suggest each of the features of claim 11. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 11 are respectfully requested.

Claims 12 and 13 depend from claim 11 and are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons claim 11 is allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 12 and 13 are respectfully requested.

Claim 22, as amended, recites that the processing logic is configured to maintain call states in accordance with a call model for at least one party involved in the call. Support for this features is given, for example, at col. 5, lines 50-56 and col. 6, lines 16-55 of the '109 patent.

Claim 22 also recites that the processing logic is configured to receive information from the at least one switch fabric, the information including a facility related event associated with a call. The Office Action states that La Porta discloses this

feature and points to col. 7, lines 11-25 for support (Office Action – page 4). The applicants respectfully disagree.

La Porta at col. 7, lines 11-25 discloses that channel servers 507 and 512 are associated with switches 508 and 510 and maintain all instances of the channel object associated with the ports of their associated switch and maintain instances of the VCI Translation Table Entry object for connections that traverse switches 508/510. This portion of LaPorta further discloses that connection server 504 provides bearer services with capabilities to add, drop or modify a connection through switches 508 and 510. This portion of La Porta, however, does not disclose that call server 502 or connection server 504 receives information from at least one switch fabric, where the information comprises a facility related event associated with a call, as required by claim 22.

A facility related event, as this term is conventionally used in this art and consistent with its use in the present application, includes events associated with a user and/or user activity at a telephone device/terminal device. As discussed above with respect to claim 11, La Porta discloses that when a user initiates a call, a request message and underlying parameters for the desired service are sent directly by the user as a service invocation to the call server 502 (LaPorta – col. 7, lines 41-48). La Porta does not disclose or suggest that call sever 502 or connection server 504 is configured to receive information from either of switches 508 or 510 (or one of channel servers 506 or 511) that includes a facility related event associated with a call, as would be required by claim 22 based on the alleged equivalence of the elements in La Porta to the elements recited in claim 22.

In contrast, La Porta discloses that when connection server 504 has selected the routes for the connections, it invokes the services of the channel servers 506 and 511 to establish the virtual channel links. At the end of their operations, the channel servers 506 and 511 report the result of these operations to call server 502 indicating whether the requested connections have been established (La Porta – col. 7, line 59 to col. 8, line 9). Therefore, LaPorta merely discloses that the channel servers 506/511 and connection server 504 report results (e.g., positive results) if requested connections have been established. LaPorta clearly does not disclose or suggest that call server 502 or connection server 504 (alleged to be equivalent to the claimed switch intelligence) receive information from a switch fabric that includes a facility related event associated with a call, as required by claim 22.

For at least these reasons, La Porta does not disclose or suggest each of the features of claim 22. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 22 are respectfully requested.

Claims 23, 24 and 26-28 depend on claim 22 and are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons claim 22 is allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 23, 24 and 26-28 are respectfully requested.

Claim 29, as amended, recites that the apparatus comprises means for receiving switch-fabric communications from a switch-fabric, the switch-fabric communications including event information associated with a call. Claim 29, as amended, also recites means for processing the switch-fabric communications, wherein the means for processing is configured to maintain call states in accordance with a call model for at least one party involved in the call and generate connection information for completing

the call. Support for these features are given, for example, at col. 6, lines 36-39 and col.

7, lines 47-54 of the '109 patent.

Similar to the discussion above with respect to claim 11, La Porta does not

disclose or suggest means for receiving switch-fabric communications from a switch-

fabric, the switch-fabric communications including event information associated with a

call. For at least these reasons, La Porta does not disclose or suggest each of the features

of amended claim 29. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim

29 are respectfully requested.

Claim 30, as amended, recites an apparatus comprising means for processing the

switch fabric communications comprising event information associated with a call

Support for these features is given, for example, at col. 6, lines 36-39 and col. 7, lines 47-

54 of the '109 patent.

Similar to the discussion above with respect to claim 11, La Porta does not

disclose or suggest that call server 502 (or connection server 504) receives switch-fabric

communications that include event information associated with a call, as required by

claim 30 based on the alleged equivalence of the elements in La Porta to the elements

recited in claim 30. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 30

are respectfully requested.

Claim 31 depends from claim 30 and is believed to be allowable for at least the

reasons claim 30 is allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of

claim 31 are respectfully requested.

Claim 40, as amended, recites that the processing logic is configured to receive

notification information from the switch fabric network element associated with a call,

and perform call half processing for at least one party associated with the call in response to the notification information and in accordance with a call model. Support for these features is given, for example, at col. 6, lines 36-39 and col. 7, lines 47-54 of the '109 patent.

Similar to the discussion above with respect to claim 11, the switch intelligence of La Porta does not include processing logic configured to receive notification information from the switch fabric network element associated with a call. La Porta does not further disclose or suggest processing logic configured to perform call half processing for at least one party associated with the call in response to the notification information and in accordance with a call model, as further required by amended claim 40.

For at least these reasons, La Porta does not disclose or suggest each of the features of claim 40. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 40 are respectfully requested.

Claims 41-43 depend from claim 40 and are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons claim 40 is allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 41-43 are respectfully requested.

Claim 44 recites an apparatus comprising a feature processor and switch intelligence. Claim 44, as amended, recites that the switch intelligence is configured to receive facility data associated with a call from a switch fabric and perform call half processing associated with at least one party to the call in response to the facility data and in accordance with a call model. Support for these features is given, for example, at col. 6, lines 36-39 and col. 7, lines 47-54 of the '109 patent.

Similar to the discussion above with respect to claim 22, the switch intelligence of La Porta is not configured to receive facility data associated with a call from a switch fabric. La Porta also does not disclose or suggest switch intelligence configured to perform call half processing associated with at least one party to the call in response to the facility data and in accordance with a call model, as further required by amended claim 44.

For at least these reasons, La Porta does not disclose or suggest each of the features of claim 44. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 44 are respectfully requested.

Claim 45, as amended, recites that the apparatus comprises logic for processing facility information received from the switch fabric in accordance with a call model and logic for performing call half processing for at least one party involved in the call in response to the facility information and in accordance with the call model. Support for these features is given, for example, at col. 6, lines 36-39 and col. 7, lines 47-54 of the '109 patent.

Similar to the discussion above with respect to claims 11 and 22, LaPorta does not disclose or suggest logic for processing facility information received from the switch fabric in accordance with a call model. La Porta also does not disclose or suggest logic for performing call half processing for at least one party involved in the call in response to the facility information and in accordance with the call model, as further required by amended claim 45.

For at least these reasons, La Porta does not disclose or suggest each of the features of claim 45. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 45 are respectfully requested.

Claim 46 depends from claim 45 and is believed to be allowable for at least the reasons claim 45 is allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 46 are respectfully requested.

Claim 47 recites a call completion device for providing bearer functions. Claim 47 recites that the call completion device is configured to forward a facility related event associated with a call to the switch intelligence. The Office Action states that La Porta discloses this latter feature and points to col. 7, lines 11-25 for support (Office Action – page 8). The applicants respectfully disagree.

As discussed above, La Porta at col. 7, lines 11-25 discloses that connection server 504 provides bearer services with capabilities to add, drop or modify a connection through switches 508 and 510. La Porta also discloses that when connection server 504 has selected routes for the connections, it invokes the services of channel servers 506/511 to establish the virtual channel links (La Porta – col. 7, line 66 to col. 8, line 1). La Porta further discloses that connection server 504 returns a result message to call server 502 indicating that the requested connections have been established (La Porta – col. 8, lines 1-9).

La Porta, however, does not disclose or suggest that a call completion device (presumably one of switches 508 or 510 and/or one of channel servers 506 or 511) forwards a facility related event associated with a call to call server 502 or connection server 504, as would be required by claim 47.

For at least these reasons, La Porta does not disclose or suggest each of the features of claim 47. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 47 are respectfully requested.

Claims 48-50 depend from claim 47 and are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons claim 47 is allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 48-50 are respectfully requested.

Claim 51, as amended, recites an apparatus comprising logic configured to receive information from a switch fabric that received a request for making a call, the information comprising facility data. Claim 51, as amended, also recites logic configured to perform call half processing for at least a first party or a second party associated with the call in response to the facility data and in accordance with a call model. Support for these features is given, for example, at col. 6, lines 36-39 and col. 7, lines 47-54 of the '109 patent.

Similar to the discussion above with respect to claims 11 and 22, La Porta does not disclose or suggest logic configured to receive information from a switch fabric that received a request for making a call, where the information comprises facility data, as required by amended claim 51. La Porta also does not disclose or suggest logic configured to perform call half processing for at least a first party or a second party associated with the call in response to the facility data and in accordance with a call model, as further required by amended claim 51.

For at least these reasons, La Porta does not disclose or suggest each of the features of claim 51. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 51 are respectfully requested.

Claims 52-54 are dependent on claim 51 and are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons claim 51 is allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 52-54 are respectfully requested.

NEW CLAIMS

New claims 55-62 have been added. Claim 55 is dependent on claim 11 and recites that the event comprises a facility related event. Claim 56 is dependent on claim 55 and recites that the facility related event comprises at least one of on-hook, off-hook or wink. Support for these features is given, for example, at col. 6, lines 36-39 and col. 7, lines 47-54 of the '109 patent. Claims 55 and 56 depend on claim 11 and are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons claim 11 is allowable. In addition, La Porta does not disclose or suggest switch intelligence configured to receive notification of a facility related event from a switch fabric, as required by claim 55. La Porta also does not disclose or suggest switch intelligence configured to receive notification of an on-hook, off-hook or wink from a switch fabric, as required by claim 56. Accordingly, allowance of claims 55 and 56 is respectfully requested.

Claims 57-62 variously depend on claims 22, 29, 40 and 45 and recite features similar to claims 55 and 56. These claims are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons their respective independent claims are allowable. In addition, none of the art of record discloses or suggests the features of claims 57-62. Accordingly, allowance of claims 57-62 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the outstanding rejection and the timely allowance of this application. If there are any outstanding issues that remain, the Examiner is invited to call the applicants' representative at the number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Appendix showing
             current changes to claims

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APPENDIX

MARKED UP CLAIMS SHOWING CHANGES MADE WITH

RESPECT TO PREVIOUS AMENDMENT FILED OCTOBER 21, 2004

1. (previously presented) An apparatus in a telecommunications system, comprising:

a switch intelligence which provides control functions for a switch fabric, said switch intelligence being logically separated from said switch fabric and being implemented in a separate network element from said switch fabric, the switch intelligence being configured to:

process information received from the switch fabric, the information comprising a facility related event associated with a call,

maintain a call state associated with completing the call in accordance with a call model, the call model indicating how the information will be processed,

identify at least one point in call associated with completing the call, and

forward a request for a telecommunications function in response to the identified at least one point in call;

a switch fabric proxy service for providing a normalized interface between said switch fabric and said switch intelligence for communications involving said switch fabric and interfacing to said switch intelligence with a uniform application program interface, wherein the normalized interface comprises any one of a plurality of vendor-specific interfaces associated with the switch fabric; and

a feature processor, said feature processor configured to:

receive the request for the telecommunications function, and

execute the telecommunications function in response to the received

request.

2. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said switch

intelligence comprises:

facility service logic configured to represent bearer and signaling facilities of a

party to the call, for interacting with said switch fabric proxy service to communicate

with said switch fabric, the facility service logic configured to receive the facility related

event and perform protocol processing on the information received from the switch

fabric, wherein the facility related event comprises at least one of an off-hook indication,

an on-hook indication or a wink.

3. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said switch

intelligence further comprises:

connection manager logic configured to forward connection information to the

switch fabric, the connection information instructing the switch to establish physical

connections to complete the call.

4. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said switch

intelligence comprises:

call segment logic configured to:

represent a status of at least two call halves associated with completing the call in

accordance with the call model, and

perform call processing for each of the at least two call halves.

5. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said switch intelligence comprises:

a call processing creation environment, said call processing creation environment interacting with said switch intelligence for modifying said call model without modifying the switch fabric.

6. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said switch intelligence further comprises:

a call processing creation environment, said call processing creation environment interacting with said call segment logic, for modifying said call model.

7. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said switch intelligence further comprises:

a call processing creation environment, said call processing creation environment interacting with said facility service logic for creating new facility models.

8. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said switch intelligence further comprises:

a call processing creation environment, said call processing creation environment interacting with said call segment logic, for creating new call models.

9. (previously presented) An apparatus comprising:

a switch-fabric proxy service for providing a normalized interface between a switch fabric and a switch intelligence for communications involving said switch fabric by interfacing to said switch fabric with any one of a plurality of application programming interfaces, wherein the switch fabric and the switch intelligence are implemented in separate network elements; and

the switch intelligence, the switch intelligence being configured to:

receive information from the switch fabric,

perform call processing in accordance with a call model using the received information,

maintain a status of at least two call halves associated with completing the call in accordance with the call model, and

direct the switch fabric to make physical connections for each of the at least two call halves to complete the call.

10. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said plurality of application programming interfaces is at least one of vendor-specific or switch-fabric-specific.

11. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

switch intelligence configured to:

receive ~~information~~ <u>notification of an event</u> associated with a call from a switch fabric, wherein the switch intelligence is implemented in a separate network element from a network element implementing the switch fabric,

execute a call state machine, the call state machine <u>being responsive to the notification of the event and</u> representing processing of the call as at least one call segment, wherein the at least one call segment corresponds to a call half,

provide an association between the at least one call segment and at least one physical device associated with completing the call, and

provide connection information to the switch fabric based on the association.

12. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said network element implementing the switch intelligence is physically separated from said network element implementing the switch fabric and is coupled to the network element implementing the switch fabric via a communications network.

13. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the network element implementing said switch intelligence is logically separated from the network element implementing said switch fabric.

14. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising:

a switch-fabric proxy service for providing a normalized interface between said switch fabric and the switch intelligence for communications involving said switch fabric, wherein said switch-fabric proxy service interfaces to said switch fabric with any one of a plurality of application programming interfaces and interfaces to said switch intelligence with a uniform application programming interface.

15. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 14 wherein each of said plurality of application programming interfaces comprises at least one of a vendor-specific application programming interface or a switch-fabric-specific application programming interface.

16. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising:

a switch-fabric proxy service for providing a normalized interface between said switch fabric and the switch intelligence for communications involving said switch fabric, wherein said switch-fabric proxy service translates switch-fabric communications into switch-intelligence communications.

17. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 16 wherein said switch-fabric communications are at least one of vendor-specific or switch-fabric-specific.

18. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising:

a switch-fabric proxy service for providing a normalized interface between said switch fabric and the switch intelligence for communications involving said switch fabric, wherein said switch-fabric proxy service translates switch-intelligence communications into switch-fabric communications.

19. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said switch-fabric communications are at least one of vendor-specific or switch-fabric-specific.

20. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising:

a switch-fabric proxy service for providing a normalized interface between said switch fabric and the switch intelligence for communications involving said switch fabric, wherein said switch-fabric proxy service translates switch-fabric communications into communications defined according to a uniform interface.

21. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising:

a switch-fabric proxy service for providing a normalized interface between said switch fabric and a switch intelligence for communications involving said switch fabric,

wherein said switch-fabric proxy service translates communications defined according to a uniform interface into switch-fabric communications.

22. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a switch intelligence for providing control functions to at least one switch fabric, the switch intelligence comprising:

processing logic configured to:

receive information from the at least one switch fabric, the information including a facility related event associated with a call,

process the received information,

maintain call states in accordance with a call model for ~~parties~~ at least one party involved in the call, and

provide connection information to the at least one switch fabric for completing the call.

23. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 22 wherein said switch intelligence is one of logically separated or physically separated from said at least one switch fabric, the processing logic being further configured to:

identify at least one point in the call where a telecommunications function is required, and

send a request for the telecommunications function to a processor in response to the identified at least one point in the call.

24. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 23, further comprising:

a processor executing the telecommunications function in response to the request.

25. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 22, further comprising:

a switch fabric proxy for providing a plurality of application programming interfaces for communications between the at least one switch fabric and the switch intelligence, wherein each of said plurality of application programming interfaces comprises at least one of a vendor-specific application programming interface or a switch-fabric-specific application programming interface.

26. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 22 wherein said switch intelligence provides control functions to a plurality of switch fabrics.

27. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 22 wherein said switch intelligence further comprises at least one of a facility service, a call connection manager service, or a call segment instance service.

28. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 27 wherein said at least one of a facility service, a call connection manager service, or a call segment instance service comprises a call segment instance service, the call segment instance service configured to maintain the call states for the ~~parties~~ at least one party involved in the call.

29. (currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:

means for receiving switch-fabric communications <u>from a switch-fabric, the</u> <u>switch-fabric communications including event information associated with a call</u>;

means for processing the switch-fabric communications, wherein the means for processing is configured to maintain call states <u>in accordance with a call model</u> for at least ~~two parties~~ <u>one party</u> involved in the call and generate connection information for completing the call; and

means for translating the connection information into switch-fabric communications for use by a switch fabric.

30. (currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:

means for translating switch-fabric communications into communications defined according to a uniform switch-intelligence interface;

means for processing the switch fabric communications <u>comprising event</u> <u>information associated with a call</u>, the means for processing being configured to:

maintain call states for ~~parties~~ <u>at least one party</u> involved in [[a]] <u>the</u> call in accordance with a call model, and

execute the call model to generate connection information for completing the call; and

means for translating the communications defined according to the uniform switch-intelligence interface into switch-fabric communications.

31. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 30, further comprising:

means for translating communications defined according to the uniform interface into switch-intelligence communications; and

means for translating switch-intelligence communications into communications defined according to a uniform interface.

32. (previously presented) An apparatus comprising:

a switch-fabric proxy service that is capable of at least one of translating switch-fabric communications into switch-intelligence communications, translating the switch-intelligence communications into the switch-fabric communications, translating the switch-fabric communications into communications defined according to a uniform switch-intelligence interface, or translating the communications defined according to a uniform switch-intelligence interface into the switch-fabric communications; and

a switch intelligence implemented in at least one network element, the at least one network element being a separate network element from a network element implementing a switch-fabric that is coupled to the switch-fabric proxy service, the switch intelligence being configured to:

execute a call model to generate connection information for completing a call corresponding to a request received at a switch fabric,

maintain call states for each party involved in the call in accordance with the call model, and

forward the connection information to the switch fabric via the switch-fabric proxy service.

33. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said switch-fabric proxy service includes a normalized interface between the switch fabric and the switch intelligence.

34. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said at least one network element implementing the switch intelligence is one of logically separated or physically separated from the network element implementing the switch fabric and is coupled to the network element implementing the switch fabric via a communications network.

35. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein the switch fabric includes said switch-fabric proxy service.

36. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein the switch intelligence is further configured to:

maintain the call model, the call model affecting how calls received by the switch fabric will be processed and wherein the call model is modifiable at the switch intelligence without modifying the switch fabric.

37. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said switch-fabric proxy service includes an application programming interface for interfacing with the switch fabric.

38. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said application programming interface is at least one of a vendor-specific interface or a switch-fabric-specific interface.

39. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said switch-fabric proxy service includes an application programming interface for interfacing with the switch-intelligence.

40. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a switch intelligence network element for controlling a switch fabric network element, wherein said switch intelligence network element comprises:

processing logic configured to:

receive notification information from the switch fabric network element associated with a call, and

perform call half processing for ~~parties~~ at least one party associated with the call in response to the notification information and in accordance with a call model.

41. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 40, wherein said processing logic is further configured to:

perform the call half processing in accordance with a call model, the call model representing at least one of an Advanced Intelligent Network (AIN) call model, an International Telecommunications Union (ITU) call model or a call model created by a service provider.

42. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 40, wherein said switch intelligence network element includes at least one of a first application programming interface communicable with a switch-fabric proxy service or a second application programming interface communicable with a feature processor that executes at least one telecommunications function.

43. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 40, further comprising at least one application programming interface communicable between at least one of a facility service, a call connection manager service, or a call segment instance service and another of said at least one of a facility service, a call connection manager service, or a call segment instance service.

44. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a feature processor for executing at least one telecommunications function; and

switch intelligence configured to:

receive <u>facility</u> data associated with a call <u>from a switch fabric,</u>

perform call half processing associated with ~~parties~~ <u>at least one party</u> to the call <u>in response to the facility data and in accordance with a call model</u>, and

provide connection information to an entity that received the call, wherein the connection information identifies physical connections to complete the call, wherein the switch intelligence is implemented in at least one network element, the at least one network element being a separate network element from the entity that received the call.

45. (currently amended) An apparatus for controlling a switch fabric, the apparatus being implemented in at least one network element, the at least one network element being separate from the switch fabric, the apparatus comprising:

logic for processing <u>facility</u> information received from the switch fabric in accordance with a call model,

logic for performing call half processing for ~~parties~~ <u>at least one party</u> involved in the call <u>in response to the facility information and in</u> accordance with the call model, and

logic for forwarding connection information to the at least one switch fabric.

46. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 45, further comprising:

interface logic including a first interface for communications between the apparatus and the switch fabric.

47. (previously presented) An apparatus, comprising:

a call completion device for providing bearer functions, said call completion device performing communications with a switch intelligence that is implemented in a

separate network element from said call completion device, the call completion device being configured to:

forward a facility related event associated with a call to the switch intelligence, and

receive bearer connection information from the switch intelligence in accordance with a call model executed by the switch intelligence.

48. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 47, wherein the switch intelligence comprises a call state model, and wherein the call completion device communicates with the switch intelligence to affect a call state.

49. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 48, wherein the call state is represented in the call state model.

50. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 47, further comprising:

a switch fabric proxy service for providing an application programming interface for communications between the call completion device and the switch intelligence.

51. (currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:

logic configured to receive information from [[an entity]] a switch fabric that received a request for making a call, the information comprising facility data;

logic configured to perform call half processing for <u>at least</u> a first party [[and]] <u>or</u> a second party associated with the call <u>in response to the facility data and in accordance with a call model</u>;

logic configured to generate connection information for the entity that received the request; and

logic configured to forward the connection information to the entity that received the request.

52. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the ~~received information~~ <u>facility data</u> comprises facility related event information.

53. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the apparatus is implemented in a network element that is separate from the entity that received the request.

54. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the logic configured to perform call half processing maintains call states associated with completing the call in accordance with a call model.

55. (new) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the event comprises a facility related event.

56. (new) The apparatus of claim 55, wherein the facility related event comprises at least one of on-hook, off-hook or wink.

57. (new) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the facility related event comprises at least one of on-hook, off-hook or wink.

58. (new) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the event information comprises a facility related event.

59. (new) The apparatus of claim 58, wherein the facility related event comprises at least one of on-hook, off-hook or wink.

60. (new) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the notification information comprises a facility related event.

61. (new) The apparatus of claim 60, wherein the facility related event comprises at least one of on-hook, off-hook or wink.

62. (new) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the facility information comprises at least one of on-hook, off-hook or wink.